
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6410 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REVISION OF MUNICIPAL CHARTERS.

SUMMARY:

By law, a commission appointed to draft or amend a municipal charter or amend a home rule ordinance must consider (1) the changes or items specified in the petition that initiated the adoption or revision process, if applicable, and (2) anything else the appointing authority recommends. Under current law, the commission may consider additional changes or items it deems desirable or necessary. This bill allows any commission appointed on or after October 1, 2011 to consider additional items or changes only if the appointing authority authorizes it to.

*House Amendment "A" limits the bill's application to commissions appointed on or after October 1, 2011.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

BACKGROUND

Charter Adoption and Revision Process

The law authorizes towns to adopt or amend a charter or amend a home rule ordinance and specifies the process for doing so. The town's legislative body (i.e., appointing authority) or the town's voters can initiate the process by resolution or petition, respectively. The legislative body must appoint a commission, which must consider any item the legislative body or the petition specifies.

The commission and the legislative body must hold public hearings on the proposal according to a statutory schedule. The legislative body can recommend changes to the commission's proposal, but the commission does not have to accept them. After the commission

finalizes its proposed charter or amendments, the legislative body can accept or reject all or parts of it. Voters can petition for a referendum on the rejected parts and must ultimately vote on the proposal, regardless of whether the legislative body initially approved it.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/11/2011)